further action for provision of telephones has been initiated separately. These phones will be installed progressively on priority subject to technical feasibility.

Telephone Exchanges under C-DOT System

617. SHRI DILEEP SINGH BHURIA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of telephone exchanges in the country provided under the C-Dot system;

(b) whether this system has been cheap and successful for rural areas; and

(c) if so, the total number of telephone exchanges likely to be provided under this system during the current financial year?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI P. V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) 2,343 as on 30-6-91.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) About 2,500.

[*English*]

Day and Night Telegraph Offices in Thane District of Maharashtra

618. PROF. RAM KAPSE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to introduce day and night telegraph offices in Kalyan, Dombivali, Thane, Ambernath, Murbad, Badlapur cities of Thane district in Maharashtra;

(b) if so, the number of people expected to be benefited therefrom; and

(c) the financial implications involved in implementing the proposal?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI P. V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) Day and Night Telegraph Service is already available at Thane. At other places, though regular service is available for restricted hours, booking of telegrams with late fee is available outside working hours. No change in this arrangement is proposed to be made.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

Telephone Service in Bombay

619. PROF. RAM KAPSE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to the news item captioned "Normalcy by July 1: MTNL" appearing in Indian Express dated June 27, 1991;

(b) if so, the total number of telephones which are still out of order; and

(c) the time by which complete normalcy in this regard is likely to be restored?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI P. V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) As on 22nd July, 1991, all the telephones which went faulty due to the heavy rains in early June, 1991 have been restored.

Waiting List for Telephone Connections in Maharashtra

620. PROF. RAM KAPSE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of applicants on waiting list provided telephone connections during the last two years in Thane district of Maharashtra;

(b) the time by which the waiting list is likely to be cleared; and

(c) the number of applicants on waiting lists for telephone connections in Nasik and Dhule districts of Maharashtra till date?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI P. V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) During the last 2 years (90-91 & 89-90) a total of 19787 applicants have been provided telephone connections.

(b) the present waiting list is likely to be cleared progressively by March, 1995.

(c) The waiting list in Nasik and Dhule districts of Maharashtra is 10929 and 2441, respectively as on 31-3-1991.

Inclusion of Badlapur and Shahpur Area into the Jurisdiction of MTNL, Bombay

621. PROF. RAM KAPSE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the time by which Badlapur and Shahpur areas are likely to be included into the jurisdiction of MTNL, Bombay for telephone services; and

(b) the number of new telephone exchanges likely to be opened in Thane-Badlapur area during 1991-92?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI P. V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) There is no proposal to include Badlapur and Shahpur areas into the jurisdiction of MTNL, Bombay for telephone services.

(b) In Thane Taluka, under the jurisdiction of MTNL, Bombay, one exchange has already been opened at Cherai in 1991-92. Another exchange is proposed to be opened at Wagle Estate. Besides, four Small Automatic Exchanges (SAXs) of 25 lines capacity each are proposed to be opened during 1991-92 at the following places under the jurisdiction of Maharashtra Telecom. Circle.

1. Tokowada	Under Murbad Taluka
2. Mhasa	
3. Bhal	Under Ulhas Nagar Taluka
4. Kondle	Under Wada Taluka

Talks with Kuwait on Return of Refugees

622. SHRI E. AHAMED: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government held any talks with the Government of Kuwait with regard to the return of refugees to Kuwait so as to enable them to have re-employment; and

(b) if so, the outcome thereto?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI MADHAVSINH SOLANKI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. We keep in close touch with the Government of Kuwait in order to facilitate the return of our nationals and already a number of them have gone back to Kuwait.

Setting up of a National Plant in Orissa

623. SHRI ANADI CHARAN DAS: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under consideration of the Union Government for setting up of a Nickel Plant in Public/Private Sector in Orissa;

(b) if so, whether any survey has been conducted in this regard; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAV): (a) to (c) A techno-economic feasibility study for establishing a 10,000 tonnes per annum nickel extraction plant based on nickel ores from Sukinda area in Orissa has been taken up. The study is expected to be completed by end of 1992.

Setting up of a National Institute of Secondary Steel Technology in Bhopal

624. SHRI SUSHIL CHANDRA VERMA: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have received any proposal from Madhya Pradesh Government for setting up of a National Institute of Secondary Steel Technology in Bhopal during 1990; and

(b) if so, the decision taken by the Government thereon and progress made so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) and (b) The Madhya Pradesh Government have offered necessary assistance for setting up the National Institute of Secondary Steel Technology at Bhopal. A final decision on the location of the Institute has not been taken.